Recently, once again at the request of Government of India, the Reserve Bank of India has announced a relief package for the coffee growers under which all types of coffee loans, (short, medium and long terms including rephased/rescheduled loans) extended by Banks, which are outstanding as on 30th June, 2002 and not classified as Non Performing Assets, will be consolidated into a Special Coffee Term Loan (SCTL) with a repayment schedule ranging between 7-9 years and initial repayment holiday (moratorium) of two years, subject to certain conditions and review thereafter.

Coffee Board is also implementing a medium-term export strategy to sustain and gain market share in the key markets and also to improve the competitiveness of Indian Coffee in the global markets over the next few years.

Debts of highly indebted poor countries

*686. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced their decision to write-off the debt owned to it by the highly indebted poor countries;

(b) if so, the names of the highly indebted poor countries in the World to whom India has provided loans;

(c) the Quantum of debt owned by those countries and under what terms and conditions such loans were given; and

(d) the advantage to Government for writing off such debts?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) In response to the HIPC initiative started by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) to reduce the debt of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) to sustainable levels, Government of India's decision to provide relief in respect of the bilateral debt owned to it by the HIPCs was announced by the Finance Minister in his statement at the International Monetary and Financial Committee meeting held on April 20, 2002. Government of India is now examining the modalities of providing debt relief to these countries.

The names of the HIPCs and the quantum of debt owned by them to the Government of India are indicated below:

(As on 31.3.2002)

Sl.No.	Name of the country	Outstanding dues
1.	Tanzania	Rs. 28.56 crore
2.	Mozambique	Rs. 17.96 crore
3.	Zambia	Rs. 10.46 crore
4.	Uganda	US $ 4.396 million*
5.	Nicaragua	Rs. 18.42 crore
6.	Guyana	Rs. 3.23 crore
7.	Ghana	Rs. 0.0094 crore
	TOTAL:	Rs. 78.6394 crore + US $ 4.396 million

* As on 30.6.2001.

Lines of credit were given to these countries for financing the export of goods and services from India. Under the terms and conditions of the agreement, the Lines of Credit carried a 5% per annum rate of interest and the stipulated period of repayment was 12 years plus 3 years moratorium.

As regards the advantage to the Government for providing relief in respect of such debts, besides good-will of the recipient countries, benefits would depend on the renegotiated terms which are still to be negotiated after reconciliation.

Scarcity of water in Rajasthan

†*687. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan falls under the category of worst affected State as far as potable water is concerned;

(b) whether there is a acute scarcity of potable water in Rajasthan and many districts of the State have to face the problem of polluted and floride contaminated water;

(c) whether any scheme is under Government's consideration to provide Rajasthan with some special financial package to make available pure potable water to the people of Rajasthan placing the State under special category in repect of crisis of potable water under the National water policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.